DISNEY COLLECTION
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A Newsletter for the Horticulture Division of Walt Disney World

Every Bloomin' Thing

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FROM DOYLE'S DESK

What a fantastic occasion Arbor Day was, and how great it was we could all be there to hear the inspiring remarks made by our three outstanding tree planters, Ted Crowell, Doyle Conner and Cindy Pleasant. Even though they were out of costume, they did a good job!

Landscaping has traditionally played a major role in the quality of the Disney show. With the planting of the tree in a special Arbor Day ceremony it is evident the Disney organization looks to the future in maintaining the tradition. One of the most frequent compliments received from our millions of guests each year is for our beautiful trees and flowers that make up the landscape.

The dedication and commitment to caring for the landscape has always been of great importance to our company. There is now more and more interest in Horticulture across the property as evidenced by our participation in the various company sponsored media. Our first segment on Topiaries for The Disney Channel was aired this month and several spots from the Polynesian Resort Hotel should appear on CCN. We are involved in the new Seminars Program, the World Showcase Fellowship Program and more.

Four of our employees will receive special recognition this month. Herb Bahr, Ricky Collum, Vern Gilreath and Noah Tyson will each complete 10 years of service with WALT DISNEY WORLD.

As Ted Crowell stated in his speech, the "Special Tree City U.S.A." award is a tremendous tribute to all our gardeners and particularly those who have spent so much time in our Division. It is through your efforts as gardeners and pride in your work that we have reached this level of recognition. As we have so often heard quoted from Walt Disney, "You can dream, create, design and build the most wonderful place in the world ... but it requires people to make the dream a reality".

Doyle

A procession of gardeners led by Jack Micciantuono, George Hutchison, and Joe Clayton (pictured from left to right) began the Arbor Day celebration.

VENOMOUS VILLAINS

This year millions of people around the world will be injured from venoms produced by insects and other arthropods. In the U.S.A. alone, there will be about 25,000 injuries resulting in death.

Human reactions to venoms or toxins vary greatly. Approximately 96% of the deaths from arthropod venoms are due to allergic reactions. The venoms, or toxins, involved are classified in four major groups: (1) vesicating toxins (produce blisters) ... stinging caterpillars, (2) neurotoxins (attack the central nervous system)... black widows, (3) cytolytic or haemolytic (destroy tissue) ... fire ants, (4) haemorrhagic (prevent clotting) ... fleas, ticks.

Members of the Horticulture Division are perhaps more susceptible to insect and arthropod injuries due to our working environment. If you are bitten by an insect, here are two things to remember: (1) capture the causitive organism - identification is a must, (2) report to Employee First Aid immediately.

Phil Flanagan, Supervisor
Horticultural Pest Control

THE PLANT PALETTE OF RIVER COUNTRY

In the coming months each of the different areas of Fort Wilderness' 600 acres will be discussed to give a total overview of our Campground Resort. This month our focus is on River Country.

At River Country the plant palette complements the naturalistic theme of Fort Wilderness. Among the many trees are Maples, Slash Pines, Loblolly Bays, Weeping Willows and Silk Oaks. Especially interesting are the Bald Cypress which dominate the board walk and beach areas.

Seasonal highlights are provided by Thunbergia, with its blue/purple flowers which are in full bloom along with Bottlebrush, Firethorn Pyracantha, and Azaleas. Additional accents are provided by beds of Pittosporum, Florida Holly, Elaeagnus, Juniper, Photinia, Wintergreen Barberry and Mexican Flame Vine.

Gwen Keefer
Fort Wilderness

Carrots are one of many crops that can be grown by tissue culture. (Pictured at Left)

TISSUE CULTURE INSURES VIGOROUS AND DISEASE FREE PLANTS

At The Land, tissue culture is used to insure more vigorous, disease free show plants. Tissue culture is a propagation technique which involves making plant tissue grow in an artificial medium.

Pineapples, yams, strawberries, potatoes, sweet potatoes and other crops can be produced free of both external and internal pathogens by shoot-tip or meristem culture. Other applications of tissue culture include the development of asexual embryos, and formation of organs such as roots and shoots.

Due to the importance of these techniques in forming the basis for future technologies, like genetic engineering, we will be working with WED to incorporate them into the show.

Sanford Mace
The Land

HORTICULTURE'S 1983 TEN YEAR SERVICE AWARDS

Through the year please join us in congratulating the following cast members who will be celebrating their ten year anniversary with Walt Disney World Company. They are as follows: Elijah Johnson, Walt Pillows, Noah Tyson, Ricky Collum, Vern Gilreath, Frank Day, Larry Higman, Bill Tebow, Don Flanery, Ernie Davison, Don Marchinki, Roger Gonzales, Bob Maxwell, Herb Bahr, Joe Mutzer, Peggy Clark, Robert Guerriere, Vinton Smith, Paul Moore, Steve Borchick, Howard Parks, Robert Johnson, and Amaury Santos. Great job and best of luck in your next ten years!

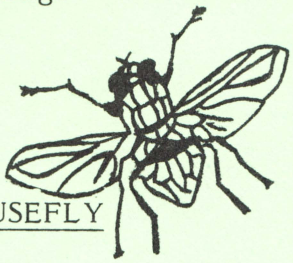
WINTER PROJECTS AT THE POLYNESIAN

A major rehab at the Polynesian this winter began in and around the Luau area. The turf area of the center court and west beach was sodded with 'Bitter Blue' St. Augustinegrass. A variety of plant material was added to the existing beach bed enhancing the tropical setting for the Luau.

The west entrance to Tonga took on a new landscape as well. Eriobotrya japonica, Loquat, made up the focal point of the entry way, surrounded by Pittosporum, Selloum, Bromeliads, and Dwarf Nandina.

Several Palm, Chorisia, and Hibiscus plantings were added throughout the area to complement the South Seas theme of the Resort Hotel.

John Puskar
Polynesian Village



OUR "SWAT TEAM" KEEPS HOUSEFLY UNDER CONTROL

The house fly, Muca domestica, is one of the most common -- and most pesky -- of all insects. During warm months they are a particular problem because of readily available breeding areas and their rapid rate of reproduction. An entire generation of flies can be produced in less than two weeks.

House fly eggs are laid in clusters of 75-100 in any type of warm organic material such as grass clippings or garbage. The eggs become tiny larvae within 24 hours and pupate 4-6 days later. The time may vary, but generally the pupa stage lasts three days. After emerging as an adult, the fly crawls about until his body dries and hardens. Once mature, flies begin reproducing immediately and may live for an average of 30 days.

When feeding, flies move from one location to another dropping fecal matter along the way. This is how the fly spreads many intestinal diseases such as dysentery and diarrhea.

The best method of fly control is sanitation. In addition, our Pest Control Department treats possible breeding areas, puts out fly bait, and uses ULV fogging. Most fogging is done at night when the flies are at rest.

Although we may never be totally rid of this pesky critter, the comprehensive control program carried out by our Pest Control Department assures that the housefly is kept under control.

Walt Pillows, Superintendent
Structural Pest Control

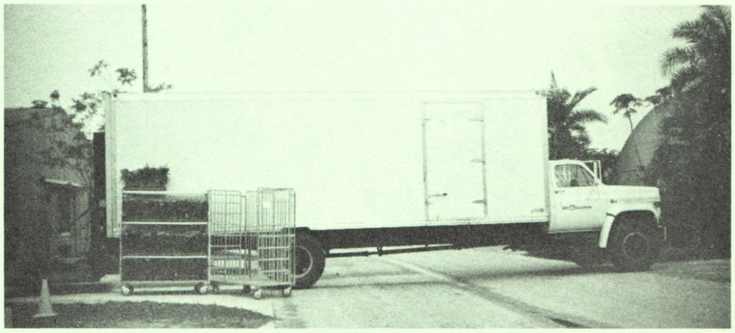
PLANT DELIVERY TRUCK MAKES ITS DEBUT

Beginning with a trial run in mid-March, our new plant delivery system is now in full swing. The shiny silver carts which are the basis for the system were first tried out at EPCOT Center and are now in use at the Magic Kingdom as well.

The plant delivery carts, along with our new truck, give us the capability of delivering large quantities of plants quickly and efficiently -- as many as 10,000 bedding plants in one load. This large capacity along with the added advantage of having the plants ready to go first thing in the morning is turning out to be a real life-saver for many of our onstage locations.

At present, we have a total of 30 carts. The truck, which features a 26' enclosed box and a specially modified liftgate, can hold up to 15 carts. As each cart holds about the same number of flats as a standard truck bed, one trip with our new truck is equivalent to about 15 trips with a conventional pick-up.

Requests for deliveries are taken every day, Monday through Friday, and all requests made by 1:30 p.m. are delivered the next morning. All plant material for EPCOT Center is delivered to the locations by 5:00 a.m., for the Magic Kingdom and Resorts our deadline for deliveries is 6:00 a.m. Empty carts are picked up daily and should be in the designated locations by 9:00 a.m. at EPCOT Center, and by 10:00 a.m. at the Magic Kingdom and Resorts. Empty pots and flats may be returned to the Nursery on the carts, as well as extra plants. Some locations have found it helpful to keep loaded carts overnight, so to avoid confusion, carts with plant material remaining on them will only be picked up if "Return" has been written on the plastic routing card.

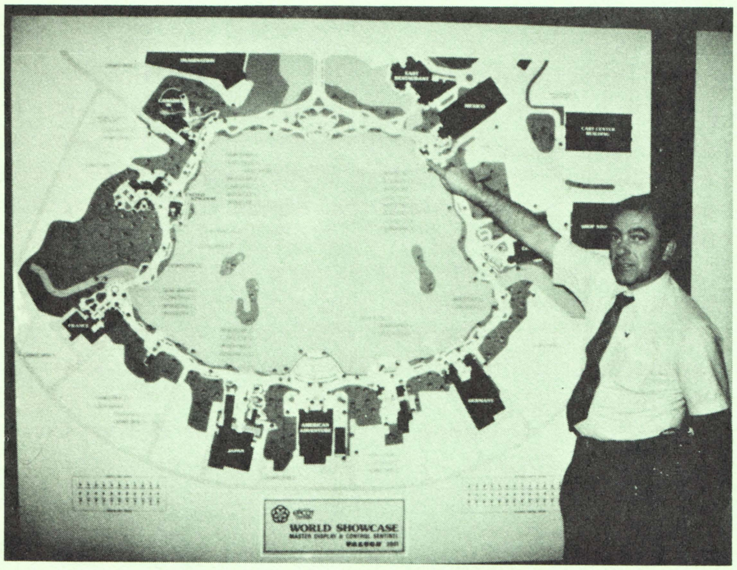


So far, our requests have averaged about 25,000 plants a week -- at that rate, our use of bedding plants will easily top the one million mark this year! If you have any ideas or suggestions for improvements to the system please let us know, we have already been able to make some changes that have been a big help. Our thanks to Sue Manney, Scott White, and Donna Vann who have been instrumental in making the system work.

Tom Underwood, Superintendent
Tree Farm/Nursery

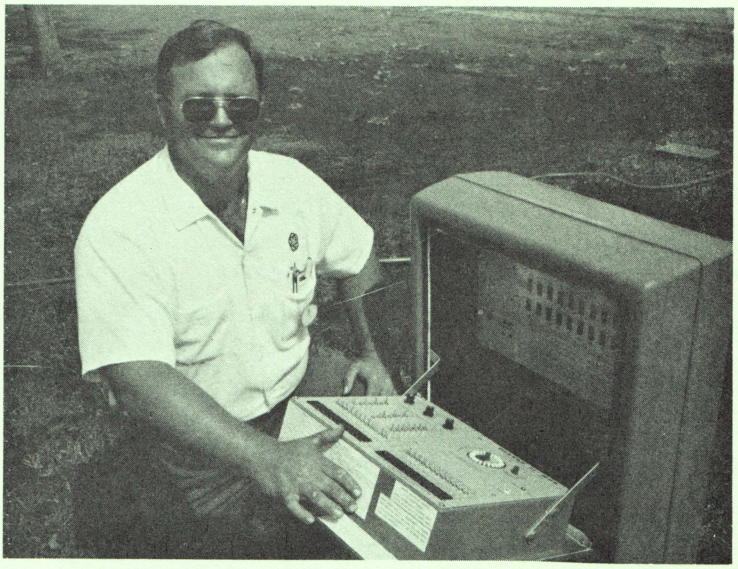
IRRIGATION OF THE FUTURE -- TODAY

Technological advances in many industries are showcased at EPCOT Center. Our irrigation system is no exception. The system, VALCON Model 2001, includes automatic clocks like those you may find in any other irrigation set-up, but the capabilities of monitoring irrigation activity provided by the Sentinel Slave Units, the display panel, and the remote control valves are unmatched.



To look at the display located in the EPCOT Center Landscape Office, you see a large plan view of Future World and World Showcase silkscreened on plexiglass spotted with many tiny lights. Providing the information for the display are the Model 2000-1 Slave Sentinels found in the field. The Slave units monitor what the irrigation in that particular section has done since the last reset of the system and displays information by lighting one of the three different LED's (Light Emitting Diodes) for each station. The 3 lights indicate either an excess moisture condition, a fault in the system, or that the system ran as programmed with no problem.

The dual master display microprocessor found back at the Landscape Office continuously scans the 32 Slave Sentinels in the VALCON Control Units to update the display of what is occurring in the system. The standard features of the Master Display Unit include Irrigation Status, Sentinel - Test/Reset, Moisture Sensor - Normal/Bypass, and Rain - Rain/Normal.



George Frey is pictured by a VALCON Control Unit.

The Sentinel Telcon is just one of 4 special features our system employs. This feature allows us to shut down or activate the system by telephone. A second special feature is the Automatic Irrigation Control Monitor which includes a red and green light on the display at the location of each VALCON II MPC Control. The green light is turned on during the time of irrigation. When a malfunction or power failure occurs the red light goes on and remains on until the problem is corrected. A third special feature is the Raindrop Sentinel. This cup like device is placed at a convenient outdoor location to sense rainfall rate. When rainfall exceeds a predetermined rate, the Raindrop Sentinel automatically prevents irrigation for a preset adjusted time. The final special feature is called Sectional Gate Valve or Master Valve Control. This feature permits a sectional gate valve or master valve to be operated either from a Slave Sentinel or from the master display panel. These valves can permit one section of the irrigation to be turned off for whatever reason without effecting the entire system.

Basically the SENTINEL MASTER DISPLAY and CONTROL is a simple system with great potential and flexibility. Through automatic monitoring, it allows a much more efficient use of water and saves time in the maintenance of the EPCOT Center irrigation system.

Dave Bargnesi, Supervisor
EPCOT Center.

Editor: Pamela Boswell
Typist: Donna Vann

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